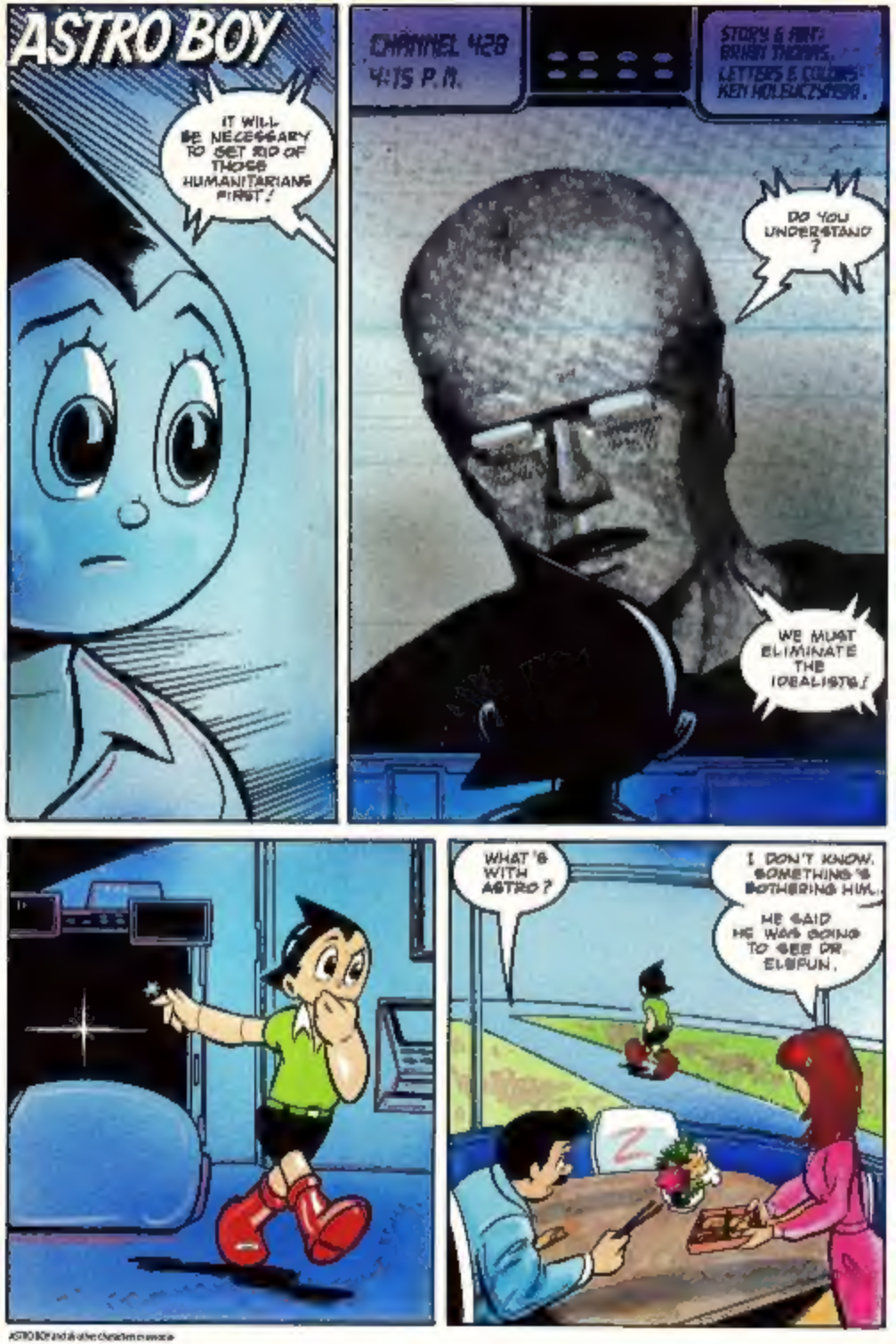

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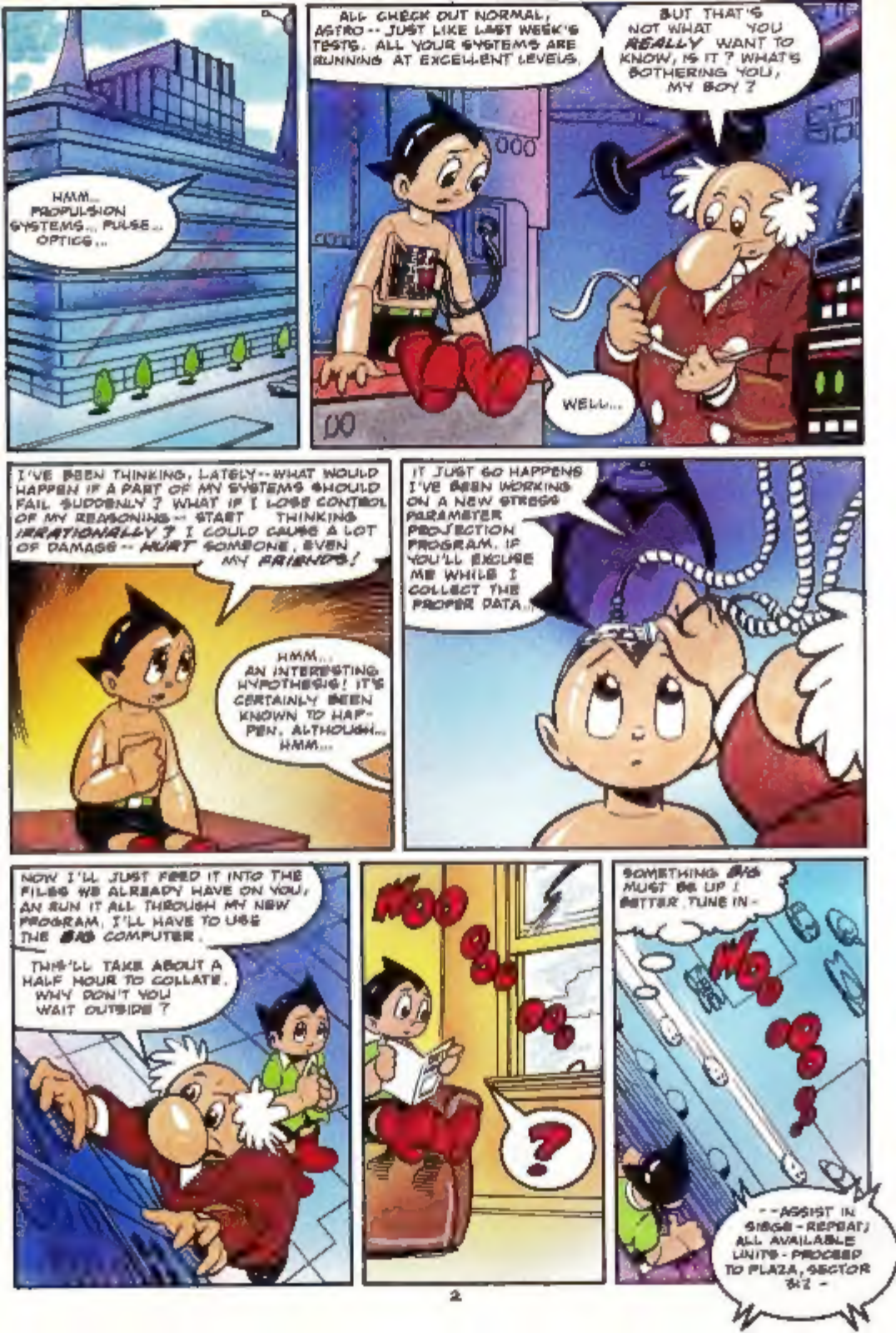
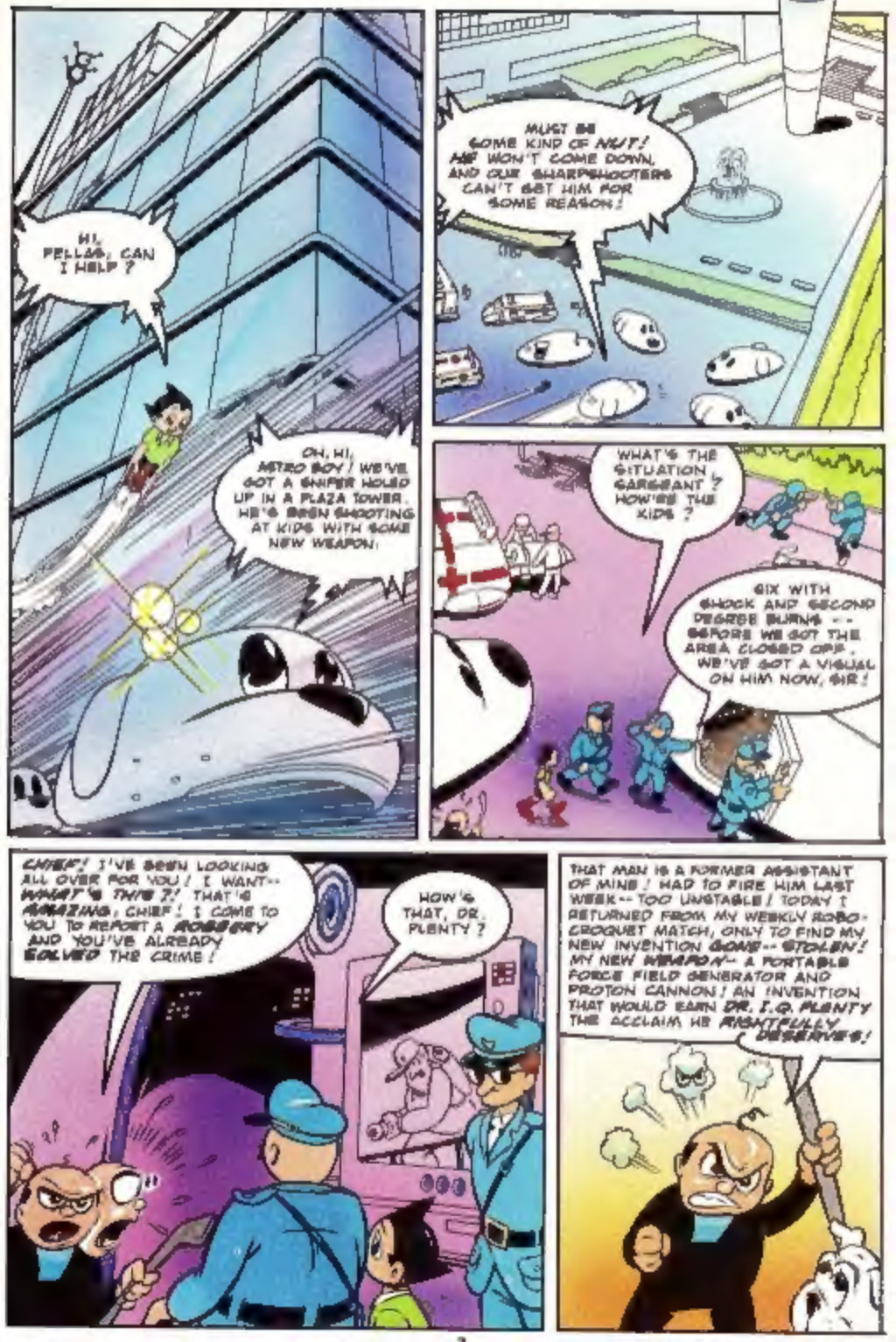
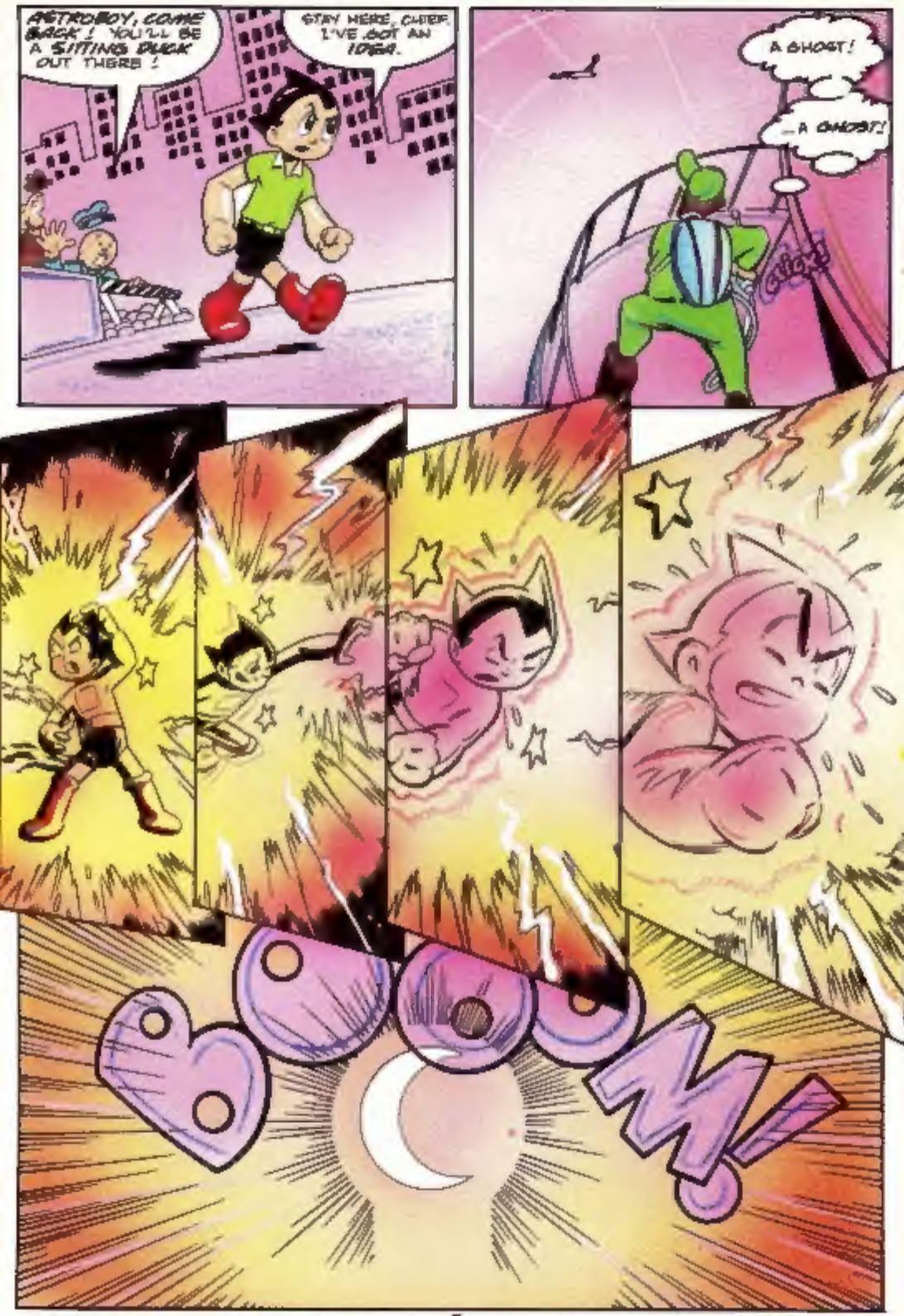

HMM... PROPULSION SYSTEMS... PULSE... OPTICS...
ALL CHECK OUT NORMAL, ASTRO -- JUST LIKE LAST WEEK'S TESTS. ALL YOUR SYSTEMS ARE RUNNING AT EXCELLENT LEVELS.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT YOU *REALLY* WANT TO KNOW, IS IT? WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, MY BOY?
WELL...
I'VE BEEN THINKING, LATELY -- WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A PART OF MY SYSTEMS SHOULD FAIL SUDDENLY? WHAT IF I LOSE CONTROL OF MY REASONING -- START THINKING *IRRATIONALLY*? I COULD CAUSE A LOT OF DAMAGE -- *HURT* SOMEONE, EVEN MY *FRIENDS!*
HMM... AN INTERESTING HYPOTHESIS! IT'S CERTAINLY BEEN KNOWN TO HAPPEN, ALTHOUGH... HMM...
IT JUST SO HAPPENS I'VE BEEN WORKING ON A NEW STRESS PARAMETER PROJECTION PROGRAM. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME WHILE I COLLECT THE PROPER DATA...
NOW I'LL JUST FEED IT INTO THE FILES WE ALREADY HAVE ON YOU, AN RUN IT ALL THROUGH MY NEW PROGRAM. I'LL HAVE TO USE THE *BIG* COMPUTER.
THIS'LL TAKE ABOUT A HALF HOUR TO COLLATE. WHY DON'T YOU WAIT OUTSIDE?
HOO OOO OOO
?
SOMETHING *BIG* MUST BE UP! BETTER TUNE IN -
HOO OOO
--ASSIST IN SIEGE - REPEAT: ALL AVAILABLE UNITS - PROCEED TO PLAZA, SECTOR 3K2 -


HI, FELLAS, CAN I HELP?
OH, HI, ASTRO BOY! WE'VE GOT A SNIPER HOLED UP IN A PLAZA TOWER. HE'S BEEN SHOOTING AT KIDS WITH SOME NEW WEAPON!
MUST BE SOME KIND OF NUT! HE WON'T COME DOWN, AND OUR SHARPSHOOTERS CAN'T GET HIM FOR SOME REASON!
WHAT'S THE SITUATION, SERGEANT? HOW'RE THE KIDS?
SIX WITH SHOCK AND SECOND DEGREE BURNS -- BEFORE WE GOT THE AREA CLOSED OFF. WE'VE GOT A VISUAL ON HIM NOW, SIR!
CHIEF! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU! I WANT-- WHAT'S THIS?! THAT'S AMAZING, CHIEF! I COME TO YOU TO REPORT A ROBBERY AND YOU'VE ALREADY SOLVED THE CRIME!
HOW'S THAT, DR. PLENTY?
THAT MAN IS A FORMER ASSISTANT OF MINE! I HAD TO FIRE HIM LAST WEEK -- TOO UNSTABLE! TODAY I RETURNED FROM MY WEEKLY ROBO-CROQUET MATCH, ONLY TO FIND MY NEW INVENTION GONE -- STOLEN! MY NEW WEAPON -- A PORTABLE FORCE FIELD GENERATOR AND PROTON CANNON! AN INVENTION THAT WOULD EARN DR. I.Q. PLENTY THE ACCLAIM HE RIGHTFULLY DESERVES!

GHOSTS!
GHOSTS!
HIS RECORD SHOWS HE WAS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT LAST YEAR-- SOME SCHOOL KIDS WERE KILLED. BEEN HAVING A RUN OF BAD LUCK EVER SINCE.
AS LONG AS THAT FIELD IS UP, WE CAN'T GET AT HIM! ASTRO BOY, DO YOU THINK--?
I'LL TRY MY BEST, CHIEF!
GO!
WHOOM!
CAN I.Q. PLENTY BUILD A FORCE FIELD OR WHAT?! NOTHING CAN GET IN OR OUT OF THAT FIELD! NOTHING EXCEPT THE SPECIALLY CHARGED MOLECULAR PLASMA STREAM FIRED FROM THE PORTABLE CANNON-- WHICH I DESIGNED!
NOTHING?


ASTROBOY, COME BACK! YOU'LL BE A SITTING DUCK OUT THERE!
STAY HERE, CHIEF. I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
A GHOST!
...A GHOST!
GULP!
BOOOM!

WHAT HAPPENED?
AAK! I'M BLINDED!
SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE, CHIEF, BUT I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU!
B-BUT HOW---?
I FIGURED THAT IF I COULD STAY IN THE STREAM LONG ENOUGH, MY MOLECULES WOULD BECOME CHARGED ENOUGH TO BREAK THE FIELD!
AHH, ASTRO, THERE YOU ARE... I'M AFRAID I HAVE SOME BAD NEWS.
MY FURTHEST PROJECTIONS PROVED TO BE INCONCLUSIVE. I'M SORRY, ASTRO, BUT IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE THAT UNDER AN UNSPECIFIED AMOUNT OF STRAIN, SOME KIND OF BREAKDOWN COULD OCCUR!
HOORAY!
GOOD GRIEF, IT'S HAPPENING ALREADY!
STOP! I'M GETTING DIZZY!
DON'T YOU SEE, DR. ELEFUN? THIS JUST MEANS THAT I'M ALL THE MORE HUMAN!
YES, I GUESS IT DOES AT THAT!
END